

## Mandarin Chinese Sentence Patterns HSK Level 1.

### Lesson 1

#### Structure

Subj. + Verb

You can form very simple sentences with just two words.

#### Examples

Subject	Verb	Translation
你们Nǐmen	吃。chī.	You eat.
他Tā	笑。xiào.	He laughs.
我Wǒ	读。dú.	I read.
你Nǐ	去。qù.	You go.
你们Nǐmen	看。kàn.	You look.
你Nǐ	来。lái.	You come here!
我Wǒ	说。shuō.	I speak.
孩子Háizi	哭。kū.	Children cry.
谁 Shéi	要学? yào xué?	Who wants to study?
谁Shéi	想玩? xiǎng wán?	Who wants to play?

### Lesson 2

#### Subject-verb-object

A basic sentence usually has an object, and is formed with this structure:

#### Structure

Subj. + Verb + Obj.

This is the same as in English, and is commonly referred to as SVO word order. You can express a huge variety of things with this simple structure.

#### Examples

Subject	Verb	Object	Translation
---------	------	--------	-------------

他们Tāmen	吃chī	肉。 ròu.	They eat meat.
你Nǐ	喝hē	茶 吗? chá ma?	Do you drink tea?
我Wǒ	去qù	学校。 xuéxiào.	I go to school.
他Tā	说shuō	中文。 Zhōngwén.	He speaks Chinese.
你Nǐ	喜欢xǐhuan	孩子 吗? hái zi ma?	Do you like kids?
我们Wǒmen	要 买yào mǎi	电脑。 diànnǎo.	We want to buy a computer.
你们Nǐmen	想 吃xiǎng chī	中国 菜 吗? Zhōngguó cài ma?	Do you want to eat Chinese food?
我Wǒ	爱ài	你 和 爸爸。 nǐ hé bàba.	I love you and dad.
他们Tāmen	要 做yào zuò	什么? shénme?	What do they want to do?
你Nǐ	想 去xiǎng qù	什么 地方? shénme dìfang?	What place do you want to go?

## Lesson 3

### 也 with Verb Phrases

#### Structure

Since it is an adverb, 也 (yě) is inserted after the subject, before the verb or verb phrase.

Subj. + 也 + Verb / [Verb Phrase]

#### Examples

- 我 也 喜欢。 Wǒ yě xǐhuan. I also like it.
- 我 也 是 学生。 Wǒ yě shì xuésheng. I am a student too.
- 她 也 有一个 儿子。 Tā yě yǒu yī gè érzi. She also has a son.
- 他们 也 是 法国 人 吗? Tāmen yě shì Fǎguó rén ma? Are they also French?
- 我 也 想 学 中文。 Wǒ yě xiǎng xué Zhōngwén. I also want to study Chinese.
- 他们 也 会 去 吗? Tāmen yě huì qù ma? Are they also going?
- 我 妈妈 也 喜欢 吃 水饺。 Wǒ māma yě xǐhuan chī shuǐjiǎo. My mother likes to eat boiled dumplings too.
- 小孩 也 可以 喝 酒 吗? Xiǎohái yě kěyǐ hē jiǔ ma? Can kids drink alcohol too?
- 你 也 想 来 我 家 吗? Nǐ yě xiǎng lái wǒ jiā ma? Do you want to come to my house too?
- 她 也 觉得 这 个 老师 不 好。 Tā yě juéde zhè ge lǎoshī bù hǎo. She also thinks this teacher isn't good.

Let's take one more look at two different English sentences which mean the same thing, but can result in bad Chinese if you translate word-for-word.

- 我 也 喜欢。 Wǒ yě xǐhuan. I also like it.
- 我 喜欢 也。 Wǒ xǐhuan yě. I like it too.

Note that the translation for the first sentence is "I also like it." The translation of the second sentence is "I like it too," which is equally correct in English, but translated word-for-word into Chinese, the 也 (yě) comes at the end of the sentence, which is *100% wrong* in Chinese.

#### A Note on the Negative Form

Please note that in English, we replace the word "too" with "either" in negative sentences. For example:

- A: I like cats.
- B: I like cats *too*.
- A: I *don't* like cats.
- B: I don't like cats *either*.

In Chinese, regardless of whether the sentence is positive ("I like them **too**") or negative ("I **don't** like them **either**"), 也 (yě) is used the same way. Just make sure you put the 也 (yě) *before* the 不 (bù) or other negative part that comes before the verb.

- 我 **也** 不 喜欢。 Wǒ yě bù xǐhuan. I don't like it either.
- 我 **也** 不知道。 Wǒ yě bù zhīdao. I don't know either.
- 他 **也** 没有。 Tā yě méi yǒu. He doesn't have it either.
- 你 **也** 不 想 来 我 家 吗? Nǐ yě bù xiǎng lái wǒ jiā ma? You don't want to come to my house either?

## Lesson 4

### 也 with Adjectives

#### Structure

也 (yě) can also be used with adjectives. Remember that for [simple "noun + adjective" sentences](#) you normally need to include an adverb like 很 (hěn) before the adjective. In that case, just put the 也 (yě) before the adverb.

Subj. + 也 (+ Adv.) + Adj.

#### Examples

- 你 **也** 很 高。 Nǐ yě hěn gāo. You are also tall.
- 他 **也** 很 胖。 Tā yě hěn pàng. He is also fat.
- 我 爸爸 **也** 很 帅。 Wǒ bàba yě hěn shuài. My dad is also handsome.
- 湖南 菜 **也** 很 辣。 Húnán cài yě hěn là. Hunan food is very spicy too.
- 这 种 酒 **也** 很 好 喝。 Zhè zhǒng jiǔ yě hěn hǎohē. This kind of alcohol is also good.
- 这 个 地 方 **也** 很 漂 亮。 Zhège dìfang yě hěn piàoliang. This place is also pretty.
- 昨天 很 冷 , 今天 **也** 很 冷。 Zuótiān hěn lěng, jīntiān yě hěn lěng. Yesterday was cold, and today is also cold.

- 他生气了？我 **也很** 生气！ Tā shēngqì le? Wǒ yě **hěn** shēngqì! He got angry? I'm also angry!
- 这个问题 **也很** 麻烦。 Zhè ge wèntí yě **hěn** máfan. This problem is also very troublesome.
- 我觉得这个餐厅 **也很好**。 Wǒ juéde zhè ge cāntīng yě **hěn** hǎo. I think that this restaurant is also good.

## Expressing "me too" with 也

It can be tricky to know how to say "me too" when you first study 也 (yě), as you can't say "wǒ yě" all by itself. That's not a complete sentence; you can't just leave 也 (yě) hanging there with nothing after it.

The all-purpose correct sentence is "wǒ yě shì," which literally means, "I am too," but can also stand in for "me too."

### Structure

The correct structure uses the verb 是 (shì):

- 我 **也是**。 The 是 fills in for whatever was just said. Wǒ yě shì. I am too. / Me too.
- 我 **也**。 Always put something after 也! It never ends a sentence. Wǒ yě.

### Examples

The "me too" structure works with other subjects, as well. But for these simple examples, we'll stick to the classic 我 (wǒ) subject.

- A: 我是美国人。 Wǒ shì Měiguó rén. I am an American.
- B: 我 **也是**。 Wǒ yě shì. Me too. / I am too.

For this next one, you'll notice that the "me too" reply repeats the original verb 喜欢 (xǐhuan) instead of using 是 (shì). Both ways are possible.

- A: 我 喜欢 看书。 Wǒ xǐhuan kànshū. I like to read.
- B: 我 **也** 喜欢。 Wǒ yě xǐhuan. Me too. / So do I.

## Lesson 5

### Structure For Time Sentences

In Chinese, time words can appear in one of two positions in the sentence: either at the beginning of the sentence (before the subject), or directly after the subject. The structures are:

**Time** + Subj. + Verb + Obj.

Subj. + **Time** + Verb + Obj.

So if you start speaking with "time first" English word order, you can carry on and get away with it. If, however, you're saving the time word for the *end* of the sentence, you can be pretty sure that it doesn't sound at all natural to your Chinese audience.

### Examples

- 昨天我去了酒吧。 *Zuótiān* wǒ qù le jiǔbā. Yesterday I went to the bar.
- 我 昨天去了酒吧。 *Wǒ zuótiān* qù le jiǔbā. I went to the bar yesterday.
- 下个星期他要回国。 *Xià gè xīngqī* tā yào huíguó. Next week he is going back to his country.
- 他 下个星期要回国。 *Tā xià gè xīngqī* yào huíguó. He is going back to his country next week.
- 明年我要开一个公司。 *Míngnián* wǒ yào kāi yī gè gōngsī. Next year I want to open a company.
- 我 明年要开一个公司。 *Wǒ míngnián* yào kāi yī gè gōngsī. I want to open a company next year.
- 下个月我们结婚吧？ *Xià gè yuè* wǒmen jiéhūn ba? Next month shall we get married?
- 我们 下个月结婚吧？ *Wǒmen xià gè yuè* jiéhūn ba? Shall we get married next month?

- 现在你能来我办公室吗？*Xiànzài nǐ néng lái wǒ bàngōngshì ma?* Now you can come to my office?
- 你 现在能来我办公室吗？*Nǐ xiànzài néng lái wǒ bàngōngshì ma?* Can you come to my office now?

## Lesson 6

### Structure For Location Sentences

To indicate the location that a verb takes place in, 在 (zài), followed by a location, comes before the verb.

Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb + Obj.

Notice that the location is placed *before* the verb in Chinese, whereas, in English, it appears afterwards.

### Examples

- 我 在 上海 上大学。Wǒ zài **Shànghǎi** shàng dàxué. I went to college in Shanghai.
- 你 一直 在 这 家 公 司 工 作 吗？Nǐ yīzhí zài zhè jiā gōngsī gōngzuò ma? Have you always been working in this company?
- 我 周 末 想 在 家 睡 觉。Wǒ zhōumò xiǎng zài jiā shuìjiào. During the weekend, I want to sleep at home.
- 不要 在 床 上 吃 东 西。need a "上" with "在" to indicate the location " on the bed." Bùyào zài **chuáng shàng** chī dōngxī. Don't eat food on the bed.
- 你 想 在 哪 儿 开 生 日 派 对？Nǐ xiǎng zài nǎr kāi shēngrì pàiduì? Where do you want to have the birthday party?
- 他 喜 欢 在 厕 所 里 抽 烟。need a "里" with "在" to indicate the location " in the bathroom." Tā xǐhuan zài **cèsuǒ lǐ** chōu yān. He likes to smoke in the bathroom.
- 很 多 人 在 地 铁 上 吃 早 饭。need a "上" with "在" to indicate the location " in the subway." Hěnduō rén zài **dìtiě shàng** chī zǎofàn. Many people eat breakfast on the subway.
- 现在 我们 在 KTV 唱歌。Xiànzài wǒmen zài **KTV** chàng gē. Now we're singing songs at KTV.
- 老板 在 会 议 室 见 客 户。Lǎobǎn zài **huìyìshì** jiàn kèhù. The boss is seeing the client in the meeting room.

- 你 **在外面** 吃 过 晚饭 了 吗? Nǐ **zài wàimiàn** chī guo wǎnfàn le ma? Did you eat dinner outside?

Notice that in English we usually put the location at the end of a sentence. This is different in Chinese, as we put the location after the subject, but before the verb.